

KOSOVO EMERGENCY

The long-simmering conflict in Kosovo exploded into an international crisis on 24 March 1999, when NATO commenced an air campaign against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, which included attacks on targets in Kosovo. More than 850,000 Kosovo Albanians fled or were deported by Serbian security forces or paramilitary groups from Kosovo after the start of the air campaign. Most fled to Albania, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYR Macedonia), and Montenegro.

The refugee influx initially overwhelmed the response capacity of the host governments and humanitarian organisations. On 3 April, UNHCR accepted NATO's offer to support the humanitarian relief operation. The support of NATO troops in building camps and providing facilities in both Albania and FYR Macedonia proved vital to bring the humanitarian crisis under control. In Albania, UNHCR, WFP, and other international organisations, some 180 NGOs, and NATO worked together to provide food, water, shelter, sanitation, and other emergency relief assistance to some 460,000 refugees. Approximately 40 per cent of the refugee population was accommodated in close to 300 camps or shelter sites throughout Albania. The Albanian people accommodated the majority of the refugee population. UNHCR provided support to host families, including cash grants and other assistance.

In FYR Macedonia, the Government was concerned about the potentially destabilising effects of a large influx of Kosovo Albanians on national security, when the country was already facing tensions related to its own ethnic Albanian minority. To reduce the number of refugees on its territory, the Government requested that a system of international burden sharing be put in place, involving the evacuation or transfer of some of the refugees to third countries. In response to this request, and to ensure the continued admission of refugees from Kosovo on Macedonian soil, UNHCR and the International Organisation for Migration launched the "Humanitarian Evacuation Programme" (HEP) in early April 1999. By the end of the emergency, almost 96,000 refugees had benefited from the programme, thanks to the generosity of 28 countries that agreed to host them on a temporary basis. In addition, some 1,400 were transferred from FYR Macedonia to Albania as part of the Humanitarian Transfer Programme (HTP). Refugees from Kosovo also made their own way from the region to many countries participating in the HEP scheme and applied for asylum.

An independent evaluation of UNHCR's response to the Kosovo refugee crisis commissioned by UNHCR's Evaluation and Policy Analysis Unit concluded in February 2000 that the HEP was an exceptional programme, and that similar large-scale humanitarian evacuation schemes were likely to be rare in future.



Humanitarian Evacuation Programme (HEP) and Total Number of Asylum Applications Lodged in 1999

Asylum Country	HEP Departures ¹	Asylum Applications ²	Total
Germany	14,690	31,500	46,190
Switzerland	1,690	28,900	30,590
United Kingdom	4,310	14,200	18,510
United States of America	14,050	1,600	15,650
Belgium	1,220	13,100	14,320
Austria	5,080	6,800	11,880
Italy	5,830	4,900	10,730
France	6,300	2,500	8,800
Turkey	8,340	0	8,340
The Netherlands	4,060	3,700	7,760
Norway	6,070	1,200	7,270
Canada	5,440	400	5,840
Sweden	3,730	1,800	5,530
Hungary	0	4,800	4,800
Australia	3,970	0	3,970
Denmark	2,820	900	3,720
Luxembourg	100	2,600	2,700
Spain	1,430	200	1,630
Czech Rep.	820	700	1,520
Ireland	1,030	300	1,330
Portugal	1,270	0	1,270
Poland	1,050	100	1,150
Finland	990	100	1,090
Slovenia	750	400	1,150
Cyprus	0	600	600
Bulgaria	0	400	400
Romania	41	400	400
Israel	210	200	410
Croatia	370	0	370
Liechtenstein	0	300	300
Slovakia	90	100	190
Russian Federation	0	100	100
Malta	110	0	110
Iceland	70	0	70
Total	95,931	122,800	218,731

Note: This Table does not include *prima facie* Kosovar refugee arrivals in the region.

¹ Departures of refugees from Kosovo from FYR of Macedonia up to 31 October 1999. Source: UNHCR/IOM.

² Asylum applications received from FRY citizens (mostly Kosovars) during 1999. Source: Governments.

Financial Report (USD)

Expenditure Breakdown	Current Year's Projects	Prior Years' Projects
Protection, Monitoring and Coordination*	21,308,396	940,895
Community Services	6,103,172	71,394
Domestic Needs / Household Support	9,221,169	348,188
Education	802,907	0
Food	7,420,406	37,687
Health / Nutrition	1,486,814	62,500
Income Generation	81,011	(3)
Legal Assistance	6,610,868	(5,222)
Operational Support (to Agencies)	7,820,786	47,165
Sanitation	4,601,784	8,124
Shelter / Other Infrastructure	20,730,834	471,471
Transport / Logistics	13,743,542	73,470
Water	5,496,116	2,355
Instalments with Implementing Partners	39,899,838	(540,991)
Sub - total Operational	145,327,641	1,517,033
Administrative Support*	1,498,302	27,987
Sub - total Disbursements/Deliveries	146,825,943	1,545,020
Unliquidated Obligations	35,087,758	0
TOTAL	181,913,701	1,545,020
Instalments with Implementing Partners		
Payments Made	104,799,714	293,260
Reporting Received	64,899,876	834,251
Balance	39,899,838	(540,991)
Outstanding 1 January	0	2,672,274
Refunded to UNHCR	0	312,290
Currency Adjustment	0	(177,132)
Outstanding 31 December	39,899,838	1,641,861
Unliquidated Obligations		
Outstanding 1 January	0	2,351,867
New Obligations	181,913,701	0
Disbursements	146,825,943	1,545,020
Cancellations	0	806,847
Outstanding 31 December	35,087,758	0

* Includes costs at Headquarters.